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**Testimony to the Environment Committee  
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**SB 1001 An Act Concerning the Recycling and Disposal of Smoke Detectors**

*The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 45 million gallons of water per day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 communities in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education and research.*

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of **SB 1001 An Act Concerning the Recycling and Disposal of Smoke Detectors**.

The RWA owns and operates HazWaste Central (HWC), Connecticut's first permanent household hazardous waste collection center. HWC was created in 1989 as a regional solution, providing proper and safe disposal of household hazardous waste to protect the region's environment and public water supplies. HWC is located at the Regional Water Authority headquarters in New Haven and serves sixteen municipalities: Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Fairfield, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge. The collection center is open for residents to deliver their household hazardous waste for proper disposal Saturdays, from the middle of May to the end of October.

HWC does not accept smoke detectors. When we receive an inquiry about how to properly dispose of smoke detectors we refer to the suggestions listed on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website. One recommendation advises homeowners to contact the manufacturer by phone for instructions on how to mail back used smoke alarms for recycling. In addition to the postage fee to mail the device, the manufacturer may also charge a nominal recycling fee. These barriers are likely to discourage recycling, resulting in smoke detectors being put in the trash and ending up in the waste stream.

HazWaste Central encourages members of the Committee to support **SB 1001 An Act Concerning the Recycling and Disposal of Smoke Detectors**. The need to evaluate this topic is important. An assessment and report about smoke detector recycling and disposal options will provide valuable information for the evaluation of future recycling options, including implementation of an extended producer responsibility program for residential smoke detectors.